

**Science Coordination Group  
Meeting Summary – Meeting#7  
Florida International University  
MARC Building – Pavilion  
11250 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami, Florida  
November 15, 2004**

**Attendance:**

**Members:**

Calvin Arnold  
Ronnie Best  
Joan Browder  
Gene Duncan (for Terry Rice)  
Ken Haddad

Dan Kimball  
Greg Knecht  
Susan Markley  
Greg May  
John Ogden

Peter Ortner  
Barry Rosen  
Rock Salt  
John Volin

**Staff, Contractors, Public:**

Jim Barnes  
Joe Boyer

Bob Doren  
David Erne

Rafaela Monchek

**Members not present:**

Richard Harvey  
Cherise Maples

Fred Rapach  
Jay Slack

**Administrative Items:**

The meeting summary was approved. (Motion – Peter Ortner; Second – Rock Salt; motion passed unanimously)

**Whiparound:**

John Ogden presented a new version of the Total System Model. He also announced that RECOVER has been asked to finish interim goals by the end of the month. RECOVER will not be able to complete model runs related to the interim goals by the end of the month.

Rock Salt made a number of announcements. He explained that because the state believed the federal process was not moving fast enough, they developed Acceler-8 to speed up the completion of 8 projects. The Guidance Memoranda were rewritten to achieve requirements in federal law in a more efficient manner and to meet the accelerated timeframe. He thought this was a positive development and noted that NPS and FWS were involved in the process. Rock could not think of any downside and said that, if anything, more projects should be accelerated. The members of the SCG asked that the DOI Acceler-8 Plan letter be distributed.

Barry Rosen discussed FWS involvement with the Guidance Memoranda.

Peter Ortner said that he believes the establishment of Regional PDTs and removal of project PDTs creates more problems than it solves.

Joan Browder said she attended a successful MAP and CESI program meeting last week.

Gene Duncan announced their water quality standards were approved by the EPA last week. He noted that these standards must be reviewed by the Tribe every three years and their standards are now as stringent as any other state or tribe in the country.

Dan Kimball announced the NPS has created a partnership with the National Parks Conservation Association. He also announced they are looking for ways to streamline research in the Park.

Ronnie Best said that USGS is reviewing its procedures to become more responsive and streamlined. Ronnie also reminded everyone that the National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration will take place on December 6 – 10. He said the conference will concentrate on restoration planning, policy and science conference.

**SCG presentation to the Task Force:**

Ken has a scheduling conflict with the December Task Force meeting so Rock will provide an umbrella presentation on the PCS Phase I. This presentation will be followed by briefings from Peter Ortner and John Ogden. Peter will present information on Florida Bay up to the MAP section. John will discuss the Southern Estuaries MAP and the total system.

**Florida Bay Feasibility Study and Florida Bay and Adjacent Marine Systems Strategic Science Plan Presentation:**

Peter Ortner distributed a letter to accompany his presentation to the Task Force. He then presented a draft briefing that included background information, program details, and listed the key elements, goals, objectives and schedule of the Study. These elements are briefly addressed in the Executive Summary. The summary also explains how the Florida Bay and Adjacent Marine System Science Program fits into the organizational structure of the restoration process, and the connection of Florida Bay to the rest of the South Florida ecosystem. Throughout the Study, science priorities are listed based on themes. The presentation will also address model development and application for Florida Bay restoration, including a graph explaining the relationship between the models related to Florida Bay.

The members provided the following comments on the draft Florida Bay presentation:

- Make the color scheme on the modeling slides more uniform
- Make the scientific themes more explanatory
- Use similar formatting on all slides to improve readability
- Replace "C-111" with "creek flow" on the modeling slide
- Start and end with needs and gaps

**Implementation of the CERP MAP for the Southern Estuaries and for the Total System:**

John is pushing for an overall plan for the MAP. A presentation has been prepared for the MAP for the Southern Estuaries explaining the goals, current state and schedule and who is implementing.

The members provided the following comments concerning the MAP presentation:

- Amount funded by SFWMD
- Amount funded by other agencies
- Gaps in funding
- Gaps in research components
- Participation by other agencies
- Ongoing monitoring projects expected to continue without guaranteed CERP funding

**Public Comment:**

Joe Boyer, FIU: said the feasibility study needs a section on the impact and relationship between White Water Bay and Florida Bay. He also suggested the SCG look at the EPA's re-map program, and be included in the process.

Members of the team expressed concern that only part of the MAP is funded by CERP, the rest is funded by non-CERP funds and is not guaranteed.

**Comprehensive Integrated Water Quality Feasibility Study:**

Greg reviewed the status of the CIWQFS from the October conference call and noted the additional items the Task Force members asked for at the December meeting. He asked the SCG if the scope of the CIWQFS as presented by the Corps addresses the SCG needs in terms of the identified gap?

He noted that Dennis Duke will provide an updated schedule and scope presentation at the December Task Force meeting. The Task Force and SCG members requested that the new schedule closely match the original schedule in the Restudy.

The SCG should tee up WQ information that is needed, specifically regarding gaps with nutrients and contaminants. Gathering data maybe another category of required information.

Susan Markley will present the WQ briefing to the Task Force.

**Review Trial Approach for Developing System-Wide Indicators and Restoration Endpoints:**

Rock Salt suggested establishing and tasking a sub-team to work with RECOVER's Total System team to create a proposed process to develop a set of indicators and restoration endpoints. This proposal would be reviewed and edited by

the SCG, and then sent to the Task Force for their comments. A final draft would then be created and sent to the Task Force for their approval.

Rock will present an update to the Task Force in December. He reiterated that the recommended process should be open and transparent and be subject to independent scientific review. The indicators must be developed by December 2005 and will be included in the 2006 update of the Task Force Strategy and Biennial Report.

The members of the subteam are Ronnie Best, Joan Browder, Bob Doren, Susan Markley, John Ogden, Peter Ortner, Barry Rosen, Rock Salt and John Volin.

#### **Schedule and Workplan for the next two years:**

Bob presented a draft schedule for implementing Phase I and creating Phase II of the Plan for Coordinating Science. The members provided the following comments concerning the draft schedule:

- Move the indicator subteam meeting so that it occurs before the next SCG meeting, but after December 12<sup>th</sup>. A briefing will be presented to the SCG at the January meeting.
- The subteam will present a report on Indicators at the March SCG meeting.
- The subteam will present the final indicators at the May SCG meeting.
- The SCG may also determine potential indicators during the analysis of the remaining CEMs.
- Use the Total System CEM as the feedback loop for the Strategic Plan indicators.
- Try to hold workshops as consecutive 1 day workshops to analyze 2 CEMs.
- Link reviews of the Everglades Ridge and Slough, Big Cypress, Marl Prairies CEMs
- Link reviews of the Lake Okeechobee and St. Lucie CEMs.
- Link reviews of the Biscayne Bay and Mangrove Estuaries CEMs.
- Add Loxahatchee to the chart.
- John Ogden will check on Jack Gentile's availability for developing needs and gaps, and combining this and the RECOVER process.
- Move the Quality Assurance items so they are not due the same time as the first draft of Phase II (suggestion – August - October 2005)
- Need a schedule for the revised Natural Systems Model so that it can be added to the schedule; provided a status report on this and Florida Bay Model at the March meeting
- Clarify the resource requirements on the schedule.

#### **Plan Comments:**

- The CEMS will be updated to include the most recent versions. Rafaela will get the most recent CEMs from Kim Jacobs at the SFWMD.
- For the figure on Page 32, change the 2<sup>nd</sup> action under Science Applications to "Implement approach, develop indicators and endpoints, sufficient to evaluate overall restoration progress."
- Change Peter's title to Chief Scientist

#### **Future Meetings/Tasks:**

Greg May requested individual team members provide an unconstrained list of outside resources they would like to see. Rafaela will send out an email to remind the members.

The next Task Force meeting will be held December 1<sup>st</sup> at Hawk's Cay.

Future meetings will be held the first Wednesday of every other month, beginning in January 2005 (January 5th, March 2nd, May 4th, July 6th, September 7<sup>th</sup> and November 2nd).